

# The Principia.

First Principles in Religion, Morals, Government, and the Economy of Life.

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## The Principia

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### PROSPECTUS.

Our object, by this publication, is to promote pure religion, sound moral-Christian reforms; the abolition of slaveholding, caste, the rum-traffic, and kindred crimes—the application of Christian principles to all the relations, duties, business arrangements, and aims of life;—to the individual, the family, the Church, the State, the Nation—to the work of converting the world to God, restoring the common brotherhood of man, and rendering Society the type of heaven. Our text book is the Bible; our standard, the Divine law; our expediency, obedience; our plan, the Gospel; our trust, the Divine promises; our panoply, the whole armor of God.

Editors friendly, please copy, or notice.

From the Cleveland (O.) "Leader."

### THE REMARKS OF REV. GEORGE GORDON TO THE U. S. COURT.

Below we publish the remarks to the U. S. Court, of Rev. George Gordon, Principal of the Iberia College, who was tried for "obstructing the process" of the Fugitive Slave Law in that place. Mr. Gordon was convicted and sentenced to a fine of \$300 and six months imprisonment in Cleveland jail! That he does not respect and will not obey the Fugitive Slave Law, Mr. Gordon frankly admits, but the severity of the sentence is beyond all reason. It is a pure act of cruelty and vindictiveness upon the part of the presiding Judge, for it rested with him to determine the amount of fine and imprisonment. He could as well, so far as compliance with the law is concerned, have given Mr. Gordon twenty-four hours' as six months' confinement. At a time when the life of the country is assailed by the slave power, the people are not ready to look with leniency upon any servile and extra-judicial bowing down to worship the god of slavery:

YOUR HONOR: Some things in my situation would seem to command silence. The form of a trial has been passed—my counsel has been heard in a defense of marked ability—and a verdict of guilty has been brought in by the jury. Nothing, therefore, remains for me but to receive the sentence and endure it to the bitter end. I cannot say anything that will modify or mitigate its severity. Yet I stand before the court in the full confidence of rectitude, without any sense of guilt or abasement. I utter no apologies, make no confessions. Why, then, do I stand branded as a criminal before the court, and yet enjoy feelings of innate rectitude? Two reasons contain the answer. First, the principal witness in this prosecution has given a testimony in some points utterly false, in others immensely exaggerated. This put me in a false position before the jury. Had I received a new trial, as was requested, much of this false impression could have been removed. The second reason is, that my conduct was guided by the express will of God as revealed in the Scriptures, a standard clearly opposed to the fugitive slave enactment, and not recognized by this tribunal.

The two slave hunters were neither threatened with hanging, or shooting, or if they were, I never heard of it, till testified by them in court. The statement is a mere fabrication—even the raw material manufactured. My arrival on the ground was not ten minutes before the whole thing was over. One of our colored young men had twice been shot at, and wounded by them, or part of their company. One claimed as a slave had been seized and violently dragged away. Under all this provocation the company acted. When I arrived, I was told they had received a few stripes. Some ten or fifteen more were laid on, whilst I was present, and with my consent. The men begged forbearance, and the matter ceased. I handed no one a stick with directions to lay on more—told no one to suppress my name—struck no one myself—nor did I administer an oath to any. I did stand by with consent, whilst ten, perhaps fifteen, lashes were laid on. I did not know whether they were slaveholders, marshals, deputies or assistants, and it is

but candid to say, I did not care. I then told one of them that the chastisement he had received had been inflicted by some of the best men in the community, men who would not hurt a hair of his head, but protect him to the fullest extent, in any decent business. But that slave catching we could not tolerate. His reply was, "this will be a lesson to me. I knew it was a mean business when I went into it, but thought I could not well help it. I will go home and resign my office, and never do so again." Had I consented to one-half the severity, or been capable of consenting to it, as testified by the deputy, I would despise myself, and merit the reprobation of all good men. Neither the false testimony of the witness, nor the point given in the bitter pleadings of the attorney, will be believed by any who know me. What I did do, I thought then, and still think was fully right. For the chastisement inflicted on these slave-catchers, I was not on trial. That belonged to the jurisdiction of another court. I am convicted of "obstructing process" in the hands of a United States Deputy Marshal, in his attempt to capture and return to bondage a fugitive slave. That act was toward a judicial kidnapper, armed with the authority of a wicked and diabolical statute. By the law of the Almighty, the slaveholder was capitally punished. The law given amid the lightnings of Sinai was, "He that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, shall surely be put to death." Three forms of the crime are named: kidnapping, slavetrading and slaveholding. In other capital offenses the sentence was, he shall die—but in this, he shall surely be put to death.

All slavery begins with some form of manstealing, and retains its essential element in its forms of descent or transmission. Men can neither buy nor inherit a better title than the pretended owner has to sell or bequeath. A hundred sales of a stolen horse don't make the title good; nor can that of a stolen man be better. Then can a marshal, or deputy, acting for a slaveholder to reclaim a stolen man, be less guilty? Is he not by the same law an official kidnapper? If God required the parent transgressor to be put to death, is it sinful, and a crime to give his proxy a few stripes? Was it not merited by these men, when they were trying their utmost to drag back their victim to perhaps two hundred lashes and life-long bondage? Job was declared by his Maker to be "a perfect and upright man, one who feared God and eschewed evil"—the best on earth in his day. Yet the good man says, "the cause that I knew not I searched out, and I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth." Did we do anything more severe?

Again, by the Psalmist God says, "deliver the poor and needy, rid them out of the hands of the wicked." And again he says, "thou shalt not return to his master, the servant that is escaped from his master unto thee." To the same purport is all that class of texts by which we are commanded "to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, hide the outcast; betray not him that wandareth." Now, by all these, and uncounted texts not quoted, what the fugitive slave enactment requires is expressly forbidden, and is therefore null and without moral force.

And again, by the best law authority, it has no legal force. From Blackstone, who declares that "all laws derive their force from the laws of nature, and those which do not are accounted no laws" to the noble New England judge, who refused to give up the fugitive to his claimant, until he would bring "a bill of sale from the Almighty himself" the best authorities speak one language. What force then has the fugitive enactment? Simply the force of muscle, handcuffs, bowie knives and pistols, used in its execution. Compliance with such a statute is crime. "We must obey God rather than man."

Civil government, with its legitimate powers, (only) is of God. He exercises it through the people. Their voice is in theory, and should be in fact, the voice of God. Hence every enactment that contradicts the Divine will, is without either moral or legal authority, and can only be carried out by brute force. All the constitutions ever made, and all the oaths ever administered, can give it no higher authority. Can anything be plainer than this? Or anything more absurd than its opposite? Has not Jehovah a right to govern the world he made, and the people he placed on it? Ought He not to do it? Is it not His duty? Can He confer on men a right to violate at pleasure His own law? Does He give any legislative or judicial body power to absolve the individual from obedience to His will, and make it his duty to observe their enactments? Will He bow to acts of wickedness because the majority decree them? If so, the prophets were fools—the apostles nullifiers, and Christian martyrs madmen. If so, Christianity in its first

principles is treason, and Jehovah's claim to rule the world intensified presumption! The truth is, that all this ridicule of the "higher law" by drivelling politicians and knavish hunkers, is sheer bald atheism. It makes majorities omnipotent, and sinks their Maker into nothing.

But whilst I claim to have acted in conformity with the will of God, I utterly deny that I violated, either the letter or spirit of a single article of the Constitution. That it don't name a slave all agree. That its framers kept out deliberately every word or phrase that might express the condition of a slave, is matter of history.

It speaks of a "person owing service"—but a slave is not a "person" in the language of (so-called) Southern laws, but a "chattel," or a thing. Neither can he well owe much to the man who has robbed him of life-long wages. It speaks of returning persons to those to whom "labor is due;" but nothing was due the slaveholder by the laws of Israel's God, except the labor it took to stone him to death, and nothing is now due five-sixths, perhaps nine-tenths, of the slaveholders of this land, even in public opinion, except the amount of shot or shell required to kill or capture them. I therefore stand before you clear of any violation of the Constitution, or constitutional law. If the people don't believe this now, they soon will.

But again: If the framers of the Constitution had a right to make the compromises claimed, and if they actually had made them, still, the frequent, flagrant, and outrageous violations by the South would long since have cancelled our obligations. It is a common principle of justice, morals, and perhaps of law, that where the conditions of a contract are broken by one party, they are of no binding force on the other. Now, the slaveholders have violently and persistently trampled down every provision of the Constitution, and the laws of Congress under it, whenever their interests, inclinations, or passions, led them to desire it. Who can number the Northern citizens who have been mobbed, maltreated and abused, from the Hon. Mr. Hoar to the last sentinel stealthily shot!—And finally, these violations by slaveholders have gone to seed, in the most diabolical rebellion the world has ever seen. And now, sir, after our public property has been plundered to the amount of millions, our forts and arsenals seized, our flag insulted and struck down, and our soldiers slain on a hundred battle fields, by slaveholders and the slave power, this Court is dealing out its sentence on my head, because I "resisted process" in the hands of these minions, when they were trying to drag back a defenceless man to cheerless and returnless bondage. Imprisonment, fines and costs, which for a time will remove my liberty, and sweep away my little property, and reduce me to the lowest poverty, are to fall upon me for performing this duty to God and humanity.

But I will be told the meeting that did this was a mob. I deny it. Whenever a Government steps out of its legitimate business, and instead of protecting human rights, crushes them out, it becomes the mob power.—Truth and equity, and the revealed will of God, all proclaim it such. It will also be said, good order cannot be maintained without obedience to existing enactments. I answer, all these can be secured without slaveholders or slave hunters; and then, good men will not come in collision with the courts.

But the slave power still rules, and I must suffer. Then be it so. "The beginning of the end has come." Though slavery yet rules, it is only in the death throes, and last contraction of its mighty heart. The iron logic of events is changing public sentiment, and few look on slave catching as anything but a mean and infamous business. The slaveholder himself despises the man who catches his fugitive. He looks on him as he does his bloodhound—calls him up and scents him on the track—doles out to him his reward—and then looks on him with utter contempt. A few words more, and I'll have done. In the charge to the jury, I cast no reflections on the Court. In so far as I had ability to judge, it was fair and candid. My counsel made an able, eloquent, and manly defence. Though I was put in a very untrue position before the jury, still I think they need not, and know they ought not, to have convicted me. Some of them will not retain the remembrance of the act among their cherished memories.

We are all passing to another tribunal, where the fugitive enactment will be at a discount. To have "resisted process" in the hands of a judicial kidnapper, will not there be regarded as a crime. The blessing of the judge will fall upon such as fed him when hungry, took him in when a stranger, and visited him in prison; and all this He will acknowledge to have been done to Him—if done to His poor. To another class he will say, "inasmuch as ye did not these things to the least of my brethren, ye did them not to me." If Grabson Marten be a Christian, the so-



called crime for which I am now to be sentenced is for resisting an attempt to drag back Christ himself to the crucifixion of perpetual slavery, in the person of His chattelized representative. If he be not a Christian, still it was resistance to the crime of reducing God's image to a slave, and crushing out his aspirations to be a man.

And now, sir, apart from the defense of the rectitude of my conduct, I have no favors to crave—no mercy to implore. I stand erect, in conscious integrity and manhood. My house has ever been a home for the fleeing fugitive, and shall be so still. If my dwelling be reduced to a cabin, he shall be welcome to a corner. All the devils in hell and slave-catchers out of hell, shall not close my door against him. I cannot repress the hope that, in this line of persecutions I may be the last victim of the slave power. Whether this be so or not, I wish when "all that's mortal" of your humble prisoner shall be in its last resting place, it may be with truth written on my grave stone, "here lies the remains of one who, in life, was faithful to God's poor."

FROM REV. HENRY T. CHEEVER.

CLIFTON SPRINGS, N. York, Nov. 1861.

Dear Brother Goodell:

Since making a deliberate survey of the wonders of Niagara, in the course of a few days sally from these Springs of Ontario, I have been seized with a strong desire to say a word to the readers of the *Principia*,—"fit audience, though few."

I do not deem that my first impressions of this sublime wonder of the world are essentially different from those of other men, from your own perhaps, when you first beheld it years ago, as a young man. But to me, now fresh from the inspiring scene, it is as if I had heard the beat of Eternity, and had felt the throb of the Infinite. In looking at the perpetual flow and fall of the exhaustless and immeasurable flood, I seemed to be viewing the resistless roll of Ages, the solemn march of Destiny, the tramp Eternal of Omnipotence.

While gazing in wrapt astonishment and awe at the equally sublime and beautiful spectacle, and hearing the majestic peal forever sounding from the abyss, one feels as if the Invisible had come in sight.—"The Godhead seen by mortal eye"—through such a revelation of His Eternal power and Godhead. And you say to yourself with Job, I have heard of thee with the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee: wherefore I abhor myself.

"Thou dost speak  
Alone of God, who poured thee as a drop  
From HIS right hand—bidding the soul that looks  
Upon thy fearful majesty be still,  
Be humbly wrapped in its own nothingness,  
And lose itself in HIM."

I had seen that mirror of the Almighty's form, the majestic ocean in calm and storm. I had felt its awful sublimity in the tempest. I had stood upon mountain tops a mile above the clouds, and had looked down upon snowy beds of vapor far below me, that reflected from their upper surface with indescribable glory, the rays of a tropical sun. I had gone a thousand feet deep into the dismal crater of the Volcano of Kilauea, and had stood a moment on the burning brink of Lua-Pele itself, perpetually rolling its waves of primeval fire. But I do not now feel (perhaps the lapse of time may account for it), that I gained from either such an overwhelming conception of Infinite and Eternal power, as when standing at the foot of the American Fall on Goat Island, and in the rear of the Horse Shoe on the Canada side, and feeling the pulse as it were, of Creation's Architect.

The man that can go from Niagara an atheist or an infidel—is he not something other than human? To be wiser, better, and more religious for such a sight and such a conception of some of the attributes of Deity, seems to me to be no less natural than rational. I regard the opportunity as a Providential privilege, involving a correspondent responsibility. To be disloyal toward God, or mean toward man, or wanting to my country or to humanity, after viewing Niagara, will be more than ever criminal. The Poet Dana has well told us what all the grandeur, magnificence and glory of material nature are for, in that poem which closes, if I remember, thus:

These are Earth's uses—GOD HAS MADE THE WHOLE,  
NOT MAINLY FOR THE BODY BUT THE SOUL—  
That MAN may grow

Noble in thought, from Nature's noble show, &c.

A man can hardly be noble in act, unless he be first noble in thought. The ideal noble must be the basis of the practical noble in every character. Our country can never

know how much of its true nobility it owes to Niagara. It is a perpetual educator of the generations, as represented in the great, the gifted, and the good, that from time to time resort here to catch the sublime inspiration from such a maternal shrine, so located between two great countries, according to the intimation of John Quincy Adams, "as if Heaven had considered it too much for one."

The number of visitors on the American side has been much less this year than usual. The International Hotel has been closed since the 1st. of October. But the Cataract House is still open, and will receive visitors all Winter. On the Canada side the Clifton House was thronged for a good part of the season, the foreign company being mainly there. May the friendly relations between the two sides, the joint owners and trustees for mankind, of this sublime wonder of the world, remain unchanged, except to be made closer, while the fixed rocks shall stand, and the stupendous cataract shall flow, the wondrous outlet to a chain of ten lakes and one hundred rivers!

While at Niagara, I was for some time in company with a Chaplain of our army, who was wounded in the battle of Bull Run, and was afterwards for a time, an Aid to the lamented Baker. From him I learned the view that prevailed among a large portion of the Army Officers in regard to the disposition of the property and lands of the Southern rebels when subjugated. It is that they should be appropriated to paying the expenses of the war; and that the lands should be divided among meritorious soldiers upon the condition of employing the slaves for wages as freemen, in the culture of these lands.\*

As fast our armies proceed Southward, he would have the deserted and confiscated lands of rebels at once occupied by loyalists, and all slaves freed by proclamation, and kept at work for hire wherever they belong, in developing the resources of the country, under the intelligent lead of free white laborers and agriculturalists from the North.

This is deemed an altogether feasible and just method of rewarding the Army of Freedom, restoring prosperity and production to the South, and keeping the emancipated slaves in habits of subordination and industry. My informant, the Chaplain, says, that the return of fugitives is every way distasteful and repulsive to the officers generally, and to the rank and file universally; and he is satisfied that very little more of that infamous business of catching and delivering fugitives will be done by our troops.

Does not this, Brother Goodell, virtually answer a question which I lately put to you in regard to what shall be done with the slaves? And is it not this alone that will save us from having added to the cup of horrors of the present complication, that of servile insurrection, slaughter, devastation, rapine and revenge? Are we not bound to deprecate such an issue till we plainly see it to be in the Divine Decrees?

ANSWER.—God commands instant and unconditional emancipation, which would neither excite revenge nor introduce horrors.—Look at the British West Indies.—*Principia*.

\* Do not the lands belong in justice to the slaves?

For the *Principia*.

#### INCITING SLAVES TO INSURRECTION.

I think it is as recently as the 16th inst., that the Charleston Mercury, heretofore a thorough pro-slavery sheet, and probably the most influential paper in the State of South Carolina, came out with an editorial emphatically denouncing slavery, on this wise.

An article of some length closes up thus: "Let us all with one heart, repeat the noble sentiment of one of her dear sons: 'It is better for South Carolina to be the cemetery of freemen than the home of slaves.'"

Now, whatever may be the intent of the Editor, allow me heartily, through your paper, to commend the sentiment to the consideration of all thinking men. I may lay myself open to the charge of old fogyism, by this new convert to freedom's army, but I will nevertheless, being a soldier of forty year's standing in this army, suggest to him the danger there is that the use of such language may be liable to stir up the slaves to a needless and bloody onslaught upon their masters.

As your influence, Mr. Editor of the *Mercury*, is almost unbounded, with the enslavers, would it not be well "just

now" to keep the *Mercury* down to about say 30 degrees above zero, until you shall for once try your influence upon them. Showing them that, all things considered, it is best for all concerned, that they should themselves release and make friends of those they have been holding in slavery? Give this course a fair trial, after which, in the event of a failure, say up to the coming in of a new year, then introduce your stronger measures of justice in defence of the inalienable rights of man as man. God is slow in His judgments, and to follow His example, it would seem, would be the part of wisdom. And then you should remember that it was but a few days since, that you yourself was guarding the abomination—slavery—with zeal and energy.

This sentiment uttered by the *Mercury* looks like a return to the days of '76 in which year one of South Carolina's sons—Henry Laurens—was honored by her, by being elected to Congress, of which he was chosen President.

This great and good man, writing, just after the Declaration of Independence, to his son John, said: "You know my dear son, I abhor slavery. I am not one of those who dare trust in Providence for defence and security of their own liberty while they enslave and wish to continue in slavery, thousands who are as well entitled to freedom as themselves."

R. W. L.

#### STRANGE THINGS.

[Extracts from a Letter.]

Surprisingly strange things are transpiring in our midst, at the present day. And what amazes we most of all is that the masses of the more intelligent of the people read the current reports of passing events so loosely.

I read things with a perfect loathing of spirit, which others laud with a grand *Te Deum*. Instance Seward's January speech in Congress, and Lincoln's inaugural, in which there is a professed willingness for an amendment—"irrevocable," to the Constitution—thus denying to after generations what we are now clamoring for, and what our forefathers fought to obtain, to wit: the privilege of governing ourselves—thus subverting the government we are professedly fighting to defend, by trampling down and sweeping away, the one glorious principle upon which it is all based. And again Col. Cochrane's speech in your city, together with Secretary Cameron's indorsement, emphatic and in toto, if the sentiment it contained to wit; the establishment of slavery by the government, taking the slaves (by confiscation) from rebels, and giving them to loyal slaveholders, and yet this same speech and indorsement have been the theme for commendation jubilant, in almost all the papers throughout the entire land—trumpeting their shame by one long loud, unanimous blast, to the whole world; and preparing matter for a page in its true history, more saddening and shameful (if possible) than any preceding it.

Well my brother, amid all that is dark and disgusting, I have a grand and sovereign medicamentum to which I habitually flee for relief; it is the assurance that there is a Great Unseen whose laws are immutable.

The way seems dark, but it grows lighter at every step taken in it, with a cheerful up-lifted countenance.

A forced submission brings no relief, but a cheerful and hearty acknowledgment of the unseen hand, is like unto the instrument used to bore into the bowels of the earth:—it strikes the vein connecting with the main fountain—and out therefrom flows the oil of joy and gladness (not the Kerosene of earth, but of the skies) diffusing light and heat to all within its influence.

FROM CHARLES STUART.

LORA, C. W., Nov. 25th, 1861.

REV. WM. GOODELL. My dear friend: When I wrote you lately, my heart was so moved, with the surpassing folly and guilt of your chattel-slavery-cherishing people, that I inexcusably forgot to record at the same time, my soul's adoring delight, in the ever-increasing band of real lovers of their country, who consistently plead for impartial freedom and holy justice, according to the revealed law of God, and the unfalsified constitution of your country—unfalsified I say, because, like the Bible itself, it has been most grossly and strenuously declared to sanction "chattel-slavery," that sum of all villainies.



Still, there is hope. In Fremont, it dawns; in Sumner, Lovejoy, and others like them, it burns brightly. Thro' the Bible Church Anti-Slavery Society, animated by the Cheevers, L. Tappan, Jocelyn, Tyng, &c. &c., it portends the best things, on a divine foundation; and we will yet hope, that your people and President, shall return to God and their brother, with fruits meet for repentance, and so, take that glorious standing amongst the Nations, to which God has called and is yet calling them; but which chattel-slavery; rejection of the unmutated Bible; denying the divine institution of the Christian Church; and substituting the idolatry of sinful-reason, for Divine Truth, have so seared and corrupted the popular mind, as to approximate it to midnight darkness.

But looking to Jesus, we will hope, and pray, and struggle onward: for "The Lord reigneth, and bids the earth rejoice;" "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." O. STUART.

#### THE PRESBYTERIANS ON THE WAR.

The Presbyterian Synod of New York and New Jersey, has communicated to the Secretary of State, a series of patriotic Resolutions on the war, among which are the two following, the only ones bearing on the cause of the war,—slavery.

*Resolved*, That while we do not feel called upon to add anything to the repeated testimonials of our church on the subject of slavery, nor to offer any advice to the government on the subject, still, fully believing that it lies at the foundation of all our present national troubles, we recommend to all our people to pray more earnestly than ever for its removal, and that the time may speedily come when God, by His providence, shall, in His own good time and way, bring it to an end, that nothing may be left of it but the painful record of its existence.

*Resolved*, That we recommend to all our people to humble themselves, and take a low place before God, in view of all our social and political sins, and each one lament and remember his own personal complicity with them.

We notice in the above, the absence of any direct testimony to the moral wrong of slavery, any expression or exhortation to penitence, on account of it, any "advice" or admonition to put away the transgression, any hint that the Government or the people have anything to do with it, except to "stand still" and wait for God to do whatever is to be done concerning it. How much this resembles the methods and "testimonies" of the ancient prophets, our readers can judge. How much, or what was intended by it, we do not say. Secretary Seward, in his expressions of "satisfaction" with their "proceedings" does not appear to think that they meant anything by their allusion to this subject, for he takes no manner of notice of it whatever.

Since penning the above, we perceive that we have overlooked one feature of the "proceedings." The preamble to the Resolutions above mentioned, commences with the following:

*Whereas*, the people of these United States, after the achievement of their independence, established a Government based on constitutional liberty, giving to all just and equal rights, &c.

We know not how to understand this, as coming from that pre-eminently conservative body. Did they mean to include the slaves under the comprehensive word "all"? If so, did they mean that the Constitution gives to the slaves "just and equal rights"? If they meant this, did they mean that slaves have "just and equal rights" now, while held in a state of slavery?

Or did they mean to take the ground of Radical Political Abolitionists, and affirm that our fathers, in establishing our government provided the same "Constitutional" liberty for the enslaved, that it does for all "the people in these United States"? Shall we quote the Presbyterian Synod of New York and New Jersey as bearing testimony to this radical exposition of the Constitution?

The Synod ought to explain.

One thing is, we think, beyond dispute.

The Synod does testify its belief that "slavery lies at the foundation of all our present national troubles." Still further, it exhorts to the duty of prayer for its speedy removal.

So far, so good. When the Synod thinks proper to exhort the people and Government to labor for the promotion of the object of their prayers, we shall probably hear again from them.

In the meantime, let us be thankful that the Church, along with the "world, does move."

#### THE PRESIDENT, GEN. McCLELLAN, AND THE CABINET.

—The *Post* and the *World* assign reasons for thinking that Mr. Stevens of Pa. was misinformed and mistaken, in saying that Gen. McClellan told Mr. Lincoln he would resign, if Sec. Cameron's Report was presented as written by him. It would, say they, be insolent in Gen. McClellan; and the President would not have tolerated it. Another reason, we think, might be added. From the general tone of Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural, Messages, and course of policy, we find no grounds for the supposition that Mr. Cameron's Report would be approved by him, or that he needed any prompter or threats to induce him to reject it. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward seem to constitute an unit, and their control is everywhere apparent. Very probably Gen. McClellan agrees with them, and may have uttered strong language, to somebody, against Sec. Cameron's Report; and this may have given rise to the story that reached Mr. Stevens.\*

The *American Baptist* has well said—

"President Lincoln has now made his record. Secretary Cameron has made his. We see now that Mr. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, was right when he declared that Mr. Cameron's views were not those of the administration. Along with the President and Mr. Smith stand, we presume, Messrs. Seward, Bates, and Blair. The Secretary of the Treasury and of the Navy are understood to advocate the same policy as Mr. Cameron. Under these circumstances, an early dissolution of the Cabinet is not improbable, and is certainly very desirable. If the President has any respect for the opinion of the people, or any regard for the salvation of his country, he will change both his policy and his advisers."

\*Since writing the above, the story has been explicitly contradicted.

#### THE PRESIDENT AND THE "CONTRABANDS."

"The *Principia* understands the President to say in his message that the so-called "contrabands" are liberated, and therefore not liable to be held as public property or be remanded back to bondage. But that part of the message referred to, does not speak of contrabands in general, such as are flocking to Fortress Monroe and Port Royal, but only of such as are liberated by the Confiscation Act, or by the legislation of particular States. With the exception of those actually employed against the United States, the President has given no pledge or intimation that the slaves of rebels would not, on the restoration of peace, be remanded back to bondage, and delivered over to their former masters."—*American Baptist*.

We fear our contemporary is correct. In our desire to find something progressive in the Message, we fell into error on the charitable side, as we find we often do, though many think us prone to be uncharitable.

#### FATAL ADMISSIONS.

On one prominent topic which engrosses public attention the policy of the government, as defined by the President, is of more pregnant consequence than the views of Congress. All the acts of the latter must be within the limits of the Constitution. That body can supply the means for the vigorous prosecution of the war, but it is not within its competency to determine those questions of military discretion which belong to the commander-in-chief and find their justification in the laws of war. The President is the sole judge of military necessities. Congress has no power to liberate slaves within the limits of the state jurisdictions; the Constitution leaves that whole subject, so far as it is a subject of legislation, to the states. But the war power justifies the President in using any means he may deem suitable for subduing the enemies of the country. What we expect in the message, on this head, is a declaration of policy rather than a recommendation of legislation. All the loyal part of the country will rally around the President and sustain him in any policy he may think it wise to adopt. What we expect, however, is simply an exhibition of firmness in steadily adhering to his past declarations.—*N. Y. World*, Nov. 26.

We believe the above view to be a mistaken one; but knowing its wide prevalence among the people, we have faint hopes that Congress will proceed to liberate the slaves under the war power, on the plan of John Quincy Adams, so long as they are trammelled with their absurd and mischievous theory of the Constitution, which is, at bottom, the very theory upon which the secession was urged, and is still justified. If it were true that "Congress has no power to liberate slaves, within the limits of the State jurisdictions" then it would be true that the theory of "State Sovereignty" is the true theory, and that the Administration and the North are wrong in the present controversy.

#### REWARD OF SERVILITY.

Who would have expected to see a burlesque on SHERMAN's silly, soft soap Proclamation, copied, without rebuke

into the *New York Herald*, the eulogist of Gen. Sherman and the villifier of Gen. Fremont?

Yet we clip the following from that paper:

A Burlesque on General Sherman's Proclamation.

[From the Charleston Courier.]

PORT ROYAL, Camp Loaves and Fishes.

To the Loyal Ladies of the Sea Island.

Having been long familiar with your soft feather beds, well supplied tables, beautiful flowers and hospitable smiles more charming even than your fish and game, we entreat you, with every assurance of our most tender regard, to come and partake of some of the delicacies which we have appropriated by a 'military necessity.'

It really grieves our loving hearts to live on the fat of your land, while you are houseless, particularly when we have so often boasted of your hospitality, and been your honored guests year after year, "without money and without price."

If you decline this affectionate overture, remember that we are cognizant to every creek and corner in your larders; we know all your little rivers of milk and honey, the small hillocks of fresh butter and the promontories of orange preserve jars, and we will appropriate them all to the glory of Abraham the First.

On the other hand, if you will only separate yourselves from the rebel husbands, sons and brothers who are behaving so improperly to our blessed government by fighting for your homes and your honor, you shall be taken to our affectionate embrace, and banquets of roses, such as you used to place around our firesides and on our toilet tables, shall be showered upon you. Yours with sacred memories.

CHAS. O. BUTTERWELL & CO.

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Chemists, Architects, Millwrights and Farmers!

The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN will be found a most useful journal for them. All the new discoveries in the science of chemistry are given in its columns, and the interests of the architect and carpenter are not overlooked; all the new inventions and discoveries appertaining to these pursuits being published from week to week. Useful and practical information pertaining to the interests of millwrights and millowners will be found published in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, which information they cannot possibly obtain from any other source. Subjects in which planters and farmers are interested will be found discussed in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN; most of the improvements in agricultural implements being illustrated in its columns.

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MUNN & Co., Publishers,

No. 27 Park-row, N. Y.



# The Principia.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1861.

LETTERS on business for the *Principia* should be addressed to M. B. WILLIAMS, the Publisher.

LETTERS for the Editor, whether for his consideration, or for the public, should be addressed to WILLIAM GOODSELL.

ORDERS for books or pamphlets may be addressed to either of the above.

But in all cases, the business matter should be on a slip of paper separate from suggestions or communications for the Editor—because business papers must be kept on the Publisher's file, by themselves. For the same reason, what is designed for the Publisher should be on one slip of paper, and matter designed for the Editor's attention or use should be on another, though all may be put into one envelope, and directed to either.

All letters for us should be carefully directed to 339 Pearl street, not to 48 Beekman street, nor to Box 1212, (the former address of Wm. Goodell, where some of his letters continue to be sent.) This is the more important note, as the office of our friends, is now removed; and letters directed there will be liable to be lost.

## THE WAR POWER AND THE CONSTITUTION.

A Question requiring an answer.

For the consideration of those who think that the Constitutional question is now become obsolete, we submit the following, communicated by a subscriber to the *Principia*.

Much is said about using the war power to abolish slavery, by those who contend that the Constitution gives Congress no power to interfere with slavery in the States, in time of peace. Now I do not doubt that this power may be so used, and slavery abolished; nor do I doubt that the Federal Government have Constitutional ability to abolish slavery, aside from the war power; but according to the common view of the power of every State to have slavery or not, and that Congress has no right, in time of peace, to interfere with the institution, where it exists "under the shield of State Sovereignty," I ask, What is to prevent the States in which slavery may be abolished by the war power, from immediately restoring it, as soon as the war is ended, and those States return to the Union? T. C. T.

REMARKS:—In evidence that the question of our correspondent is not an impertinent nor a frivolous one, we will mention that we know a jurist of very respectable standing with the bar and the bench, who, having recently become convinced of the military and political necessity of emancipation, and a zealous advocate of that measure, under the war power, who, nevertheless, retaining his traditional belief that there is no authority vested in the Federal Government to abolish slavery in the States, in time of peace, has arrived at precisely the conclusion indicated by our correspondent. He says with distinctness, and maintains with confidence and logical acumen, that there is no virtue in a military liberation of the slaves to prevent the "Sovereign States" from reenslaving them again, in the exercise of their "State rights," on the return of peace, under our present Constitution, which he does not expect to see set aside or changed in that feature. He consequently denies that there is power in the Federal Government to interfere for the prevention of such action by the States, after the return of peace.

Our judicial friend is not alone in this view. We have heard of other legal gentlemen who avow the same opinion. Indeed, we are not certain that this is not the prevailing view of those civilians and statesmen who have recently declared in favor of the exercise of the war power for depriving the rebel slaveholders of their slaves, but who, nevertheless, maintain the old theory of the Constitution and of "State Rights"—a theory which, by the bye, we have often observed, is the corner stone of the Confederate Rebellion itself.

We have little or no doubt that this is the view of Edwin Croswell and Daniel S. Dickinson, perhaps of John Cochrane. If not, why do they oppose the proclamation of Fremont? Without this, to what does Mr. Croswell's "nice distinction" amount? And for what object is it insisted upon? They seek and expect a restoration of the Union, under the Constitution, as heretofore construed. It is the height of their ambition to secure this. They profess no opposition to slavery on principle, nor sympathy for the slave. All this they repudiate as fanaticism and weakness. They wish only to terminate the war, and restore the Union as it was before—a Union with States conceded to have Constitutional power to protect or to chattelize whom they please!

This being the case, the question of our correspondent becomes a pertinent and timely one. If a peace should be patched up on a basis that would leave the Slave States at liberty to re-establish the root of another rebellion—a worse mistake than was committed by our fathers, would be committed by ourselves.

If "we the people," who are complimented with the title of "sovereign," have no Constitution that debars the "Sovereign States" from chattelizing such portion of the "Sovereign people" as it pleases; and if we have a Federal Government that has no power "in time of peace," to protect us against such "State" despotism, it is high time that we had. But if we have such a Constitution already, it is high time that our ability to make effective use of it were tested.

## "WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THEM?"

If the negroes are liberated, what shall be done with them?

This question, which seems to puzzle our politicians and economists, admits of an easy and simple solution. The negroes themselves, understand it, if the white people do not.

The "special correspondent" of the *N. York Tribune*, writing recently, from Port Royal, says:

"There is no wish on the part of the negroes to go North. They dread the cold, dislike to leave their homes—the attachment, as I have already explained, being local, not personal—and look intelligently forward to emancipation on the soil. A large number of them who gathered about one of the officers, was much frightened on being asked whether they did not wish to go North, and an old man answered, 'No, massa, no; we don't want to go North. You make this free State and pay us for our work, and let us all stay here.' An answer which may help to dispel the dismal anticipation really entertained by some persons not otherwise unintelligent, that the North is to be overrun by liberated slaves. They have, and can have neither the wish nor the means to forsake the soil on which they are born or bred."

This disposes of the fear that, on the liberation of the slaves, we, at the North, shall be overrun with them. They would stay, of course, at the South, where their labor will be wanted, as it is not, here.

And this fact disposes of the project as well as of the expense of colonizing them. Nobody at the North, would think of colonizing them, but for the fear of their coming North. And if emancipation became general, nobody at the South would think of colonizing them, for their labor could not be spared. There would be a demand for even more laborers, as is the fact in the British West Indies, and the colored people of the North would be more likely to go South, than those of the South to come North.

The only reason why any of the planters have ever wanted the free people of color to be colonized, was because their presence made the slaves discontented. When there are no slaves to be kept quiet, there will be no Colonizationists at the South, and the Colonization project will be abandoned.

When some pro-slavery fanatics in Maryland, a year or two since, started the project of either colonizing or enslaving the free blacks of that State, the free whites who wanted to hire the blacks as free laborers, soon put their veto upon the proposal. The same will be done again, throughout the South, when slavery is abolished.

## THE HERALD'S DEFENCE.

The *New York Herald* copies our article in which we exposed its desperate game of playing into the hands of the rebels, while pretending to be in favor of the Government; and it occupies a full column of editorial in reply, besides, copying also a long article from a correspondent of the *New Orleans Picayune* in which the writer likewise charges *The Herald* with being all sides of all questions and playing a deceptive double game.

The *Herald's* inference seems to be that since both the abolitionists and the partisans of slavery bring against it the same charge of duplicity, therefore the charge must be false! Having thus defended itself, it proceeds to class the *Principia* with the *Picayune* correspondent "Cobbett" on the ground that both are disunionists—which chagres, so far as the *Principia* and its Editor are concerned, the *Herald* ought to know, and probably does know, to be false. We challenge *The Herald* to produce a single word we have ever said or written against either the Union or the Constitution. The *Principia* was defending both, while *The Her-*

*ald*, only a few months since, was the open eulogist of the Secessionists, avowed its preference of the Constitution of the Confederate States, over the Constitution of the United States, and was preparing to hoist the rebel flag over its own office. To the present moment it is the partisan of Mayor Wood, who, during the *Herald's* advocacy of the Southern revolt, sent forth his semi-official proclamation of the prospective secession of this City from the State and Nation, to join the Southern rebels!

*The Herald* has the impudence to pretend that President Lincoln's tone toward the British Government is identical with its own, and infers that our charge against the *Herald* is equivalent to a charge against the President—thus repeating its oft pretended identity with the Administration!

In all this, the *Herald* offers not one word of evidence in disproof of our charges against it. It cannot; but instead it winds up its long article with the following:

"Either the *HERALD* is loyal or the President is a secessionist, and the *Principia*, may choose its own horn of the dilemma. It says, that we pronounced universal abolition the strongest weapon of the government; but it forgets to add that we said that, if this weapon were used, it would destroy not only the rebels, but the country, as Samson killed the Philistines and himself by pulling down the pillars of the temple."

"It concludes by stating that we are in favor of the halter or the prison for abolitionists and rebels alike; and there it says truly, and we gladly plead guilty to the charge. Yes, Mr. Goodell, we hold that you should join your co-disunionists in Fort Lafayette; and, if our 'talent of prophecy' has not deserted us, you shortly will, if you do not change your course. You and 'Cobbett' are a very pretty pair of radicals, and ought to discuss your opinions of the *Herald* in the same cell. Such wonderful coincidences of opinion deserve coincidences also of confinement and hanging."

*The Herald*, has, at times, threatened, the South with abolition, as a means of subduing the rebellion. At other times it has said that abolition would pull down the pillars of our temple. According to its present explanation, it would pull down our Government as a means of subduing the rebellion!

We expected our blow would be felt, and are not disappointed. How the blow has been parried, the reader will judge.

As to *The Herald's* invitation to us to "join the disunionists at Fort Lafayette" we must beg leave, disrespectfully to decline. The company, especially if the Editor of the *Herald* should get there, would not be at all to our taste.

## PRAYER MEETINGS AT FORTRESS MONROE.

The following is a Report, by REV. L. C. LOCKWOOD, as nearly as he could re-produce it, of a prayer offered by "BRO. CAREY," a colored man, near the close of an evening meeting, among the "contrabands" so-called, at Fortress Monroe, during the recent visit of REV. S. S. JOCKLYN, one of the Secretaries, of the American Missionary Association, to that Mission.

"O Lord, if you please look down upon us, this evening, I pray, and give us a closing blessing. We thank and praise thee for all that we have heard from the lips of our Northern brethren, who have come over the briny waters, to preach to us the pure gospel. O Lord, though I cannot read thy word, I thank thee that thou hast written it on the table of my heart, and given me an understanding mind, and kept it blazing before my eyes, like the sun. Yet, Lord, I confess that we have not been thankful enough for all thy blessings. We confess that we are like the children of Israel, ever ready to murmur and complain. But, for murmurings, O Lord, you have given us blessings. And this makes us come for more. O Lord, we believe that you have come to deliver your people. O trample the secessionists under foot, and bless the Union cause, and right every wrong. Bless the President, the Congress Hall and the Senate. Help them to make laws that shall be for the good of the Union, and for the freedom of thy oppressed people, O Lord, I pray. Bless the army, and the officers. Make them wise as a serpent, and bold and persevering as a lion, till thy people are delivered."

"Look, this evening upon our dear brethren and sisters and children, far away, in the house of bondage, especially those who have been carried away by the secessionists. Comfort their minds, and interpose for their deliverance. And if they are not in Christ, bring them in, O Lord, I pray."



"Remember our brother (Jocelyn) who has been with us, and is about to leave. Preserve him on the mighty waters, and reward him for his labors of love. And remember our brother Lockwood, who has come back to us. Strengthen him in the inner and outer man, and give him grace and strength, for suffering time, that he may go in and out before us, and do us good. And when you have remembered all, and after you have done and suffered your holy will with me, please to receive me to yourself, O Lord, I pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

THE OUTRAGE IN OHIO.—We again call attention to the case of REV. GEO. GORDON, Principal of Iberia College, who is incarcerated in jail at Cleveland, in the year of our Lord 1861, and under our Republican Administration, for the crime of showing kindness to the Savior, in the persons of his hunted and oppressed poor. The intelligence is so astounding, that multitudes inquire whether it can be credible. But so it is. Read his address to the Court that sentenced him. We copy it, in this number of the *Principia*, from *The "Leader"* newspaper, published in Cleveland.

We repeat our earnest hope that he will soon be liberated by President LINCOLN, as S. M. Boothe was liberated by President Buchanan. How can he hesitate to do so?

GEN. FREMONT, after having spent several days in this city, has proceeded to Washington. During his stay, here, he declined receiving any public demonstrations in his favor; but large numbers of gentlemen and ladies called on him and his estimable lady, at the Astor House. So far as we have seen or heard, his visitors were highly gratified with the interview. The General is remarkably unassuming in his deportment and manners—is a man of few words and seems to know precisely what to say. His lady too, is equally intelligent and affable in conversation, well posted in public affairs, takes a deep interest in the great questions of the day, and makes no secret of her own and husband's attachment to the cause of human freedom and welfare. The Lord bless and direct them!

WENDELL PHILLIPS TO SPEAK IN COOPER INSTITUTE.—We are authorized to announce that WENDELL PHILLIPS will deliver a Lecture on THE WAR, at Cooper Institute, on Thursday Evening December 19. We trust he will have a full house, and that Cooper Institute will again resound with the acclamations of our patriotic citizens, responding to the notes of impartial freedom. Doors open at 7; lecture at 8. Admittance 25cts.

#### THE NATIONALITIES.

"Their origin, elements, mission, responsibilities, duties and destinies."—A Discourse by WM. GOODALL (Published in the *Principia* of Dec. 7) is now on sale in Tract form at our office, in packages only,—as follows:

By mail, postage prepaid, by us.		Delivered at the Office.	
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THE SONG OF THE "CONTRABANDS."—"O let my people go."—Words and Music obtained through the Rev. L. C. Lockwood, Chaplain of the "contrabands" at Fortress Monroe.—Arranged by Thomas Baker.—NEW YORK, Published by Horace Waters 481 Broadway.—BOSTON, O. Ditson, 277 Washington Street.—This song originated among the "contrabands," and was first heard sung by them, on their arrival at Fortress Monroe, and promises to become a favorite piece of music for the piano.

#### COMPENSATION TO EMANCIPATED SLAVES.

A correspondent sends us the following form of a Petition which, he says, received the signatures of 89 legal voters of the township of China, Wyoming Co. N. Y.

TO THE HON. SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

The undersigned, citizens of the Town of— Co. of— respectfully petition that, inasmuch as, to "ESTABLISH JUSTICE" was one of the prime and fundamental reasons for the federation of the States of this union, and inasmuch as our national Constitution guarantees "to every state in this union a republican form of government" and also that "no person shall be—deprived of—liberty—without due process of law," and whereas slavery is a violation of the laws

of humanity and of those of the God of the Universe, its existence in our nation be immediately abolished by federal enactments and acts such as may be necessary to secure that end.

And your petitioners further ask, that, whereas, as a nation, we are complicated in the crime of holding a portion of our fellow men in bondage, as well as from reasons of common humanity, you make provisions for making amends to the enslaved, when they shall have been set at liberty, by conveying to them titles to lands alienated by rebels and by providing for them educational and other needful facilities.

### News of the Day.

DEFERRED ITEMS.—Our extracts from the President's Message and from Secretary Cameron's intended Report, last week, excluded some items of news which we supply here.

Mayor Wood defeated.—One disgrace wiped out.—We are happy to say that the voters of New York city have refused to re-elect FERNANDO WOOD for their Mayor. His term of office expires with the current year. Our next greatest nuisance in this city, in the shape of a human being, is JAMES GORDON BENNETT, the twin traitor and supporter of Wood. If the city could but contrive some suitable way of getting rid of him, by the close of December, we should indeed have a "happy New-Year."

Of Mr. Opdyke, the new Mayor elect, we know little except that he is a Republican—that he is charged with being an Abolitionist but denies it—was announced as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Sumner meeting, at Cooper Institute, but denies that, also. We have not yet heard that he denies having been elected Mayor.

The *Herald* predicted that the election of Opdyke over Wood, to the Mayorality, would prove the city to be abolitionized. Will *The Herald* admit, now, that its prediction is fulfilled? Is the city abolitionized? Not exactly. But it is in process of becoming so, and the downfall of the traitor Wood, is among the proofs and effects of it. *The Herald* was nearer the truth than it commonly is—nearer than it intended to be.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Interview at Secretary Cameron's.—Secretary Cameron's house was the scene of an interesting interview to-night. Having entertained Mr. Russell of *The London Times* with a few friends at dinner, a Congressional deputation, at the head of which was Vice-President Hamlin, was introduced. The Secretary was congratulated on his position upon the slave question. Mr. Russell probably learned in these few moments more of the real sentiment of the country than he ever knew before.—*Cor. Tribune.*

Fugitives.—A good move.—Secretary Seward, yesterday issued an order to Gen. McClellan, directing that the slaves coming within the lines of the army of the Potomac be received into the military protection of the United States, and that their arrest as fugitives from labor or service be followed by the military arrest of the parties making the seizure.

Congress.—In the Senate yesterday Mr. Chandler offered a resolution to appoint a committee of three to inquire into the disasters of Bull Run and Edwards Ferry, the consideration of which was postponed until to-day. On motion of Mr. Grimes, the resolution to investigate the case of Col. Miles was passed.

Mr. Trumbull introduced his bill to confiscate the property and give freedom to the slaves of the rebels, and made a long speech in its support. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. An adjournment to Monday was effected.

Another good move.—The Secretary of the Treasury has issued regulations relating to the disposal of the cotton, rice, and other products of the territory held by the rebels, which may come into the possession of the United States forces. An agent is to be appointed whose duty it shall be to prepare these articles for shipment, and transmit the same to New York. The slaves are to be set to work, and a fair compensation for their labor to be given them.

Anti-Slavery petitions are already being presented in Congress.—Hasten them forward!

A pleasing prediction.—A special dispatch of the N. Y. *Tribune* says:

"No intelligent man could have gone out of the Senate Chamber this morning without the conviction that the 'Conscript Fathers' had silently pronounced the doom of Slavery on this continent. An act of Congress will unquestionably strike the shackles off the Africans in every State of the Union before the next anniversary of Washington's Birth-Day."

[Again we say—send on the petitions.—Everything depends, under God, upon the people.]

Pacification movement.—The following, crowded out of our last issue, deserves a place among the records of the times.

Mr. SAULSBURY, (Del.) offered a joint resolution, which is as follows:

Whereas, The people of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee, are in revolt against the constitutional government of the United States, and have assumed to secede from the Federal Union to form an independent government, under the name of the "Confederate States of America;" and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States approving the sentiments of the President in his annual Message, that the "Union must be preserved," and hence all indispensable means must be employed, and believing that kind and fraternal feeling between the people of all the States, is indispensable to the maintenance of a happy and prosperous Union, and being willing to manifest such feeling on their part to them; and that peace may be restored to a distracted country, and the Union and Constitution be preserved and maintained; and inviting the co-operation of the people of the aforesaid States in the accomplishment of this object, it is desirable to each and all, do resolve as follows:

Resolved, That Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, Roger B. Taney, Ed. Everett, Geo. M. Dallas, Thos. M. Ewing, Horace Binney, Reverdy Johnson, John J. Crittenden, Geo. E. Pugh, and Richard W. Thompson be, and are hereby appointed Commissioners on the part of Congress, to confer with a like number of Commissioners to be appointed by the States aforesaid, for the preservation of the Union and the maintenance of the Constitution; and that they report the result of said conference to Congress for approval or rejection.

Resolved, That upon the appointment of Commissioners as hereby invited, by said States, and upon the meeting of the joint commission for the purpose of conference, as aforesaid, active hostilities shall cease and be suspended; and shall not be renewed unless said commission shall be unable to agree, or in case of an agreement by them, said agreement shall be rejected either by Congress or by the aforesaid States.

The Resolution was laid on the table. The papers say it excited derision, as it deserved.

SATURDAY, Dec. 7.

Missouri.—Rumors were afloat yesterday, of the defeat of Montgomery in Missouri. To-day it is discredited, and instead, we have the following:

Reports from Missouri state that Ben McCulloch has gone into winter quarters near Bentonville, Arkansas. Gen. Price's whereabouts were unknown. A party of citizens attacked a gang of returned rebels from Gen. Price's army, near Dunksburg, Mo., on the 4th instant, killing seven and wounding ten of them. The rebel Hays, with three hundred men, visited Independence on Monday, and seized all the horses belonging to the Pacific Stage Company, and made a general confiscation of all the property of Union citizens.

Eastern Tennessee.—It is said that Parson Brownlow, at the head of Union troops, has achieved a victory over the rebels. The Parson seems to have better success in fighting the rebel slaveholders than defending their cause by arguments in favor of slavery.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* has the following from its Washington correspondent:

"In our account of how we had two Reports from the War Department, we erred slightly. Gen. Cameron did not pen the substitute, but the President did it, and changed it to suit himself; but as Gen. Cameron was cognizant of the fact, and submitted it, we considered it perfectly correct to say he did it."

From Port Royal.—By the arrival of the *Vanderbilt* yesterday, we have later news from Port Royal. The letter of our special correspondent published on another page, will be read with much interest. The troops under Gen. Sherman have been engaged in the most severe labor since they reached Hilton Head, labor which might have been performed by the slaves, if the policy of the Commanding General had allowed him to take advantage of the aid within his reach. Hilton Head Island is now in course of thorough intrenchment, storehouses are building, and a fine wharf will soon be finished. Beaufort has not been occupied, and it appears that it is not likely to be occupied for some time. Important reconnoissances have been made; an account of one of these is given by our correspondent. Partially completed and entirely abandoned fortifications were found. The expedition which has recently been fitting out from Port Royal, was to sail within three or four days of the date of our correspondent's letter. Much impatience is felt by the troops because they are not allowed to take Savannah and Charleston. The destruction of cotton by the rebels, in order to prevent it from falling into our hands is wide spread.—*Tribune.*



**The imprisoned negro refugees.**—There are 46 persons from Maryland and Virginia in the County Jail, arrested by constables, on the presumption that they are fugitive slaves. A difficulty exists in the way of their immediate discharge, from the fact that it cannot yet be ascertained whether they are all contrabands, and as loyal citizens have a right to claim a surrender of their property.—*Cor. Tribune.*

The perplexities and the mischiefs of half-way measures are here apparent.

MONDAY, DEC. 9.

**Missouri.**—We have intelligence from Missouri that General Pope has been assigned to the command of all the national troops between the Missouri and Osage rivers. Price, at last accounts, was still south of the Osage, and was believed to be losing more men from desertion, than he was gaining in answer to his recent proclamation. We have a rumor from Richmond, by way of Memphis, that he has been superseded in his command of the Missouri rebel army by Gen. Heath, of Virginia. Bands of Price's men are roving about the State committing depredations and outrages in every direction.

**Pensacola.**—A dispatch from Pensacola, appears in the *Memphis Avalanche* of the 5th inst. It is dated the 4th, and states that the rebel steamships Florida and Pamlico had engaged the national fleet off the east end of Horn Island, and the national fleet retired. No particulars of the affair are given.

**Kentucky.**—Breckinridge, with his brigade, has returned to Bowling Green without firing a gun. Gen. Crittenden felt confident of his ability to capture his entire force, but the rebel general returned to Bowling Green, and thus escaped.

**Hatteras.**—The steamer S. R. Spaulding, which arrived at Fortress Monroe on Friday, from Hatteras Inlet, brought intelligence of a naval engagement between the U. S. gunboats Stars and Stripes, Underwriter, Putnam, and Ceres, and two rebel gunboats. Between twenty and thirty shot and shell were fired on each side, without doing any damage. By this steamer we also learn that on the 2d inst. a furious gale prevailed at the Inlet, but the fortifications remained uninjured by the tide, which was not as high as that of the previous month.

**Arkansas.**—A large number of Arkansas exiles have arrived at Rolla, and joined Col. Phelps' regiment of Missouri Volunteers.—*World.*

**From England.**—An important statement appears in the *Edinburgh Scotsman* which, if reliable, dispels all anxiety as to the action of the British Government in regard to the capture of Mason and Slidell. It says that a rumor prevailing that the United States steamer James Adger had gone to intercept the British mail steamer from the West Indies, a correspondence took place between Mr. Adams and the government, in which the latter disclaimed any knowledge of the matter. At the same time it was ascertained to be the opinion of the law officers of the crown that, according to the interpretation of the law as laid down in former decisions, the relations of Britain to the American belligerents, are perhaps such that there might have been fair legal grounds for the American cruiser seizing the mail steamer as a prize, even in British waters, if it could have been shown that she knowingly harbored the persons and property of enemies of the United States, in the shape of the delegates and their baggage.—*ib.*

**More Contrabands.**—Washington, Dec. 8.—Thirty-one contrabands have arrived here. They are women and children, and were brought over from Matthias Point by Col. Graham during his recent reconnoissance. The men, numbering over fifty, are still with Gen. Sickles, employed as laborers. These slaves had been deserted by their masters, and were in a destitute condition when discovered by our troops.—*Tribune Cor.*

**Slaves in Alexandria Jail.**—An examination of the jail at Alexandria, by Mr. Allen, the Government detective, has disclosed facts equally revolting with those which have come to light in reference to the Washington jail. Among other persons confined there are the slaves of John A. Washington, who were placed there for safe keeping, while Washington went off to fight in the rebel army.

**Loyal slaveholders.**—The Louisville (Ky.) Journal, (Geo. D. Prentice,) which was indignant last April, at the President's efforts to re-inforce Fort Sumter, has since affected to be loyal, and has had great influence in shaping the policy of the Cabinet at Washington, particularly in dictating the removal of Gen. Fremont. It has since demanded the removal of Secretary Cameron, for his course on the slave question, and now comes vehemently against President Lincoln himself. What shall be done to pacify Mr. Prentice? Something, no doubt will be attempted.

TUESDAY, DEC. 10.

Congress resumed its session yesterday. Petitions from several states, calling on Congress to legislate on emancipa-

tion, were presented to the Senate and referred to the Committee on Judiciary. On motion of Mr. Clark, a resolution was passed requesting the marshal of the District of Columbia to inform the Senate by what authority he keeps slaves of the district in jail because they are refractory. Mr. Hale's resolution, directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the present Supreme Court and establishing another, was discussed by Messrs. Hale, Foster, and Browning. Mr. Collamer moved, as a substitute, that all portions of the President's Message relating to the Judiciary be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, which was adopted. The resolution calling for a committee to investigate the causes of all the disasters that have happened to the Union forces, was agreed to by a vote of 33 to 3.

The House yesterday adopted a joint resolution that the President be requested to inaugurate systematic measures for the exchange of prisoners in the present rebellion. Mr. Lovejoy introduced a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War to revoke that part of a late general order of Gen. Halleck's excluding fugitive slaves from the lines of the Union forces in Missouri, which was amended by a substitute requesting the President to recall the order, and cause Gen. Halleck to conform to the practice in the other departments of the army. After some discussion the subject was postponed. On motion of Mr. Fessenden it was resolved that the Committee on the District of Columbia be requested to report the number of fugitive slaves that have been confined in the government jail in Washington during the last one and a half years, by whom owned, whether any of these fugitive slaves have been returned to their claimants, by what authority, and to whom, and also specifying what number, if any, have been returned since the order of Secretary Seward in reference to alleged fugitives, to whom and by whom delivered.—*World.*

The Secretary of the Treasury, in his Report, recommends as follows:

While thus recommending retrenchment and the prevention of abuses, the Secretary feels himself constrained to renew the suggestion heretofore submitted by him, that the property of rebels should be made to pay, in part at least, the cost of rebellion. Property of great value in loyal states is held by proprietors who are actually or virtually engaged in that guilty attempt to break up the Union, and overturn its government, which has brought upon our country all the calamities we now endure. That property is justly forfeited to the people, and should be subjected, with due regard for all rights and interests concerned, to sequestration or confiscation, and the proceeds should be applied to the satisfaction of claims arising from the war.

Property of rebels in rebel states should be treated in like manner. Rights to services, under state laws, must, of necessity, form an exception to any rule of confiscation. Persons held by rebels, under such laws, to service as slaves, may, however, be justly liberated from their constraint, and made more valuable in various employments, through voluntary and compensated service, than if confiscated as subjects of property.

**Platforms!**—At a caucus of the Republican members of Congress, it was proposed to re-affirm the Philadelphia and Chicago platforms, as binding on the Republican members, in their legislation at the present session! The caucus adjourned till Wednesday evening.

**Emancipation in Kentucky.**—We understand that the President has been assured that the Legislature of Kentucky will soon emancipate all slaves in that state, reimbursing loyal men for losses sustained thereby.—*Times' Cor.*

**Mr. Stevens' Resolutions.**—Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, has modified his resolutions in several important particulars, namely, declaring there can be no solid and permanent Union so long as Slavery exists, and that all slaves be proclaimed free, compensation to be made to loyal masters, who have been and continue to be supporters of the Union.—*ib.*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11.

**Congress.**—A resolution was offered in the Senate yesterday, by Mr. Foot, that Waldo P. Johnson, of Missouri, be expelled from that body. It was laid over. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill for the organization of the medical department of the army, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. Mr. Hale called up the resolution offered on Monday that the Committee on Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the present judicial system of the United States, and establishing another in pursuance of the Constitution, and it was agreed to. Mr. Chandler announced the death of Hon. Kinsley S. Bingham, late senator from Michigan, and offered the customary resolution that the Senate go into mourning for thirty days, which was adopted, after remarks by Messrs. King, Clark, and Sumner.

The House yesterday adopted a resolution that the Attorney-General be requested to report his views as to the means of obtaining a retrocession of that part of Virginia formerly comprising a part of the District of Columbia. Mr. Potter, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill providing homesteads for actual settlers, and a bounty for soldiers, instead of grants of public lands; it contains a section giving a bounty of thirty dollars to the three months volunteers. The consideration of the bill was postponed until next Wednesday. The House concurred in the resolution from the Senate for a joint committee to inquire into the conduct of the present war, with power to send for persons and papers. Mr. Pendleton

moved that the memorial of Messrs. Howard, Catchell, and Davis be reported back to the Committee on Judiciary, with instructions declaring that Congress alone has the power under the Constitution to suspend the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*; that the exercise of that power by another department of the government is a usurpation, and dangerous to public liberty; that the persons above named be delivered to the marshal, to the end that they may be indicted, with the right of a speedy trial, if there be probable cause for such proceeding. Mr. Pendleton supported the resolution in a speech, but, on motion of Mr. Bingham, the subject was laid on the table by a vote of 108 to 26. Eulogies on the late Senator Bingham were delivered by several members, and the usual resolutions of respect passed.—*World.*

**Slaves in the District of Columbia.**—The bill introduced by Mr. Hutchins, of Ohio, yesterday, proposes unconditionally to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia.—*Times.*

**Exchange of Prisoners.**—It seems quite likely that the vexed question of exchanging prisoners will soon be settled. The New York committee, consisting of Messrs. Savage, O'Gorman, and Daly, have had several interviews with the President, Gen. McClellan, and congressmen, all of whom are in favor of making exchanges. The Senate will probably pass a resolution to-day, which has already passed the House, requesting the President to make the exchange.—*World.*

**The Latest War News.**—On Monday, off Matawanan Creek, at Freestone Point, on the Potomac, the gunboats Jacob Bell and Anacostia shelled a number of buildings, which sheltered a force of Rebels, driving the latter out. A Union force then landed and burned the buildings. The enemy fired but a few musket shots. Large quantities of supplies were destroyed.

It is believed in Washington, or said to be believed, that the Rebel Army on the Potomac numbers 100,000. This, however, is mere conjecture.

By way of Fortress Monroe we hear from Norfolk, that a battle is almost daily looked for on the Potomac, and that the sutlers are removing their stores. Much excitement prevailed, and the war fever ran high.

Gen. Butler's expedition arrived at Port Royal on the 7th inst., according to a dispatch from Savannah to Norfolk.—*Tribune.*

THURSDAY, DEC. 12.

**Congress.**—The proceedings in the Senate yesterday were unusually interesting, rendered so by the eulogies on the late Senator Baker, which were delivered by Messrs. Nesmith, McDougal, Browning, Cowan, Dixon, Sumner, and Latham, and the presence of President Lincoln. Mr. Sumner presented a petition for the emancipation of the slaves—those of the rebels without compensation, and those of Union men to be paid for. On motion of Mr. Wilson, it was resolved that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to report what reduction may be made in the expenses of the army. Mr. Powell presented resolutions from the legislature of Kentucky, asking that Congress afford some relief to the people of Ireland. The memorial of the New York Chamber of Commerce, relating to the establishment of a line of mail steamers between San Francisco and China was presented by Mr. Harris and referred to the Committee on Commerce. Mr. Chandler offered a resolution instructing the Military Committee to inquire into the expediency of appointing a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress, who shall have power to retire any improper officers of the army and navy, which was agreed to. Bills were introduced by Mr. Harris to establish a new military and mail route to Baltimore, and by Mr. Wilson to increase the number of cadets at West Point.

In the House a resolution was adopted that all memorials, resolutions, and documents, which may be presented for the recognition of the independence of Hayti, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Bingham introduced a bill to forfeit the property and slaves of persons who are in armed rebellion against the United States; also, a joint resolution directing the provost court at Alexandria to retain and safely keep the property of those engaged in or aiding rebellion until further action of Congress upon the subject. Both were referred to the Committee on Judiciary. On motion of Mr. Blair, the thanks of Congress were tendered to the officers and soldiers under the late Gen. Lyon, and each regiment engaged in the battle of Springfield is to bear on its colors in gold letters the word "Springfield." A long and somewhat spicy debate occurred on the consideration of the resolution that the President be requested to direct Major-General Halleck to recall his order respecting fugitive slaves, in which Messrs. Lovejoy, Stevens, Blair, Fouke, and Julian participated. On motion of Mr. Kellogg, the matter was laid on the table by a vote of 78 to 64. The resolution looking to a recognition of the independence of Hayti and Liberia was amended by directing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire into the expediency of such action, and then adopted. A discussion on the abolition of the franking privilege was cut short by a message from the Senate announcing the death of Senator Baker. Eulogies were delivered by several Senators.—*World.*

**Alarm.**—WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—A great alarm occurred in our lines in Virginia last night, occasioned by a report that the enemy were advancing in strong force. Seven divisions of the army were under arms all night, but the alarm proved to be false. At noon to-day all was quiet.

Senator Sumner, in the course of his eulogy upon Senator



Baker, attacked slavery, and severely rebuked the inaction of the Administration.

A large number of spectators are in attendance upon the trial of Col. Kerrigan.—*Post*.

**Contradiction.**—WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The statement of Gen. McClellan's interference with Secretary Cameron's report is contradicted on the highest authority and in the most positive terms.—*Id.*

FRIDAY, DEC. 13.

**Slave Catching in the Army.**—Governor Andrew of Massachusetts has sent to the Secretary of War an indignant remonstrance against the employment of Massachusetts soldiers in the business of catching fugitive slaves, as has been the case on the Upper Potomac. Mr. Cameron promptly sent a copy of the remonstrance to Gen. Stone, with an emphatic request that he would treat fugitives according to orders.—*Tribune*.

**Congress.**—In the Senate, little of general interest took place.

In the House, the Slavery question was discussed, and Mr. Lovejoy said:

He would say, in regard to himself and others, that an attempt has been made to convey the impression that he and others design to support the war, not against the rebellion, but against Slavery. He believed in taking away all the property of rebels, and emancipating their slaves, as the most efficient means of suppressing the rebellion. Others might differ from him as to the policy, but while he was not in favor of carrying on the war for the specific and ultimate purpose of liberating the slaves, he was against carrying it on for protecting Slavery. He was opposed to the army being employed as slave catchers, and to giving orders to throw back on their masters those who desire to escape, whether free or slave, black or white. Consequently, he thought if any orders had been given to drive slaves back into the hands of Secessionists, or into the hands of slaveholders, whether loyal or not, they were contrary to sound policy in carrying on the war and suppressing the rebellion. In conclusion, he said if any soldiers want to fight simply for the purpose of returning fugitive slaves, he had only to remark that the army would be stronger without them.

Mr. ELIOT (Mass.) proceeded to explain and enforce his resolution, declaring that the war has for its object the suppression of the rebellion, and the reestablishment of the rightful authority of the National Constitution and the laws over the entire extent of our common country, and advising that military orders for the emancipation of the slaves be used whenever the same shall avail to weaken the power of the Rebels in arms, or in sustaining the military of the loyal forces. Slavery, he argued, was at the root of the rebellion, and therefore is an outlaw. There was no doubt loyal men should be protected because it should be understood that the men who stand up for the right, should be held close to our hearts. This war had been called an anti-slavery war; it was no such thing. Though slavery caused it, and though by it slavery may be overthrown or removed nevertheless, the object of the war is to recover the rightful authority of the Government, and to put down treason.

He spoke of the desertion of the country around about Port Royal, and in reply to his own question, What ought to be done? said: Let our military commanders organize a Bureau of Agriculture—let the black hands gather the white staple—let the shackles fall off the limbs thus employed. His resolutions, he said, do not determine what the future is to be. Let us first do the work put upon us, and after that the way will be opened to us. As our army advances, the re-establishment of the former order of things would be apparent. Already a Post-Office has been put in operation at Port Royal, soon the school-house and church would follow; and even in the Palmetto State, the banner of our common country will wave over the land of the free. Treason will be suppressed, the rebellion overcome, and the rightful authority of the laws and Constitution maintained.

In the course of his remarks, he said Simon Cameron had done more in three months to raise his name higher among men and the lovers of freedom and as an opposer of rebellion and treason than during all his previous long career in public life. Toward the conclusion of his lengthy argument, he said it was time there was a definite policy on this subject of confiscation, and he further contended that as Slavery was at the root of this treason it should be eradicated, and quoted authorities to show that by the law of nations it was competent and right to pursue the course which his resolutions indicate.

**Tybee Island.**—By way of Washington we have important information from Tybee Island and vicinity which has not been furnished by any direct arrival at this port. On the 5th inst., before daylight, Commander Rodgers left Tybee Roads with three gunboats, and proceeded to Warsaw Island, the fort upon which was found to be entirely deserted. It consisted of an inclosed octagonal work, with platforms for eight guns on the water faces. The guns had been removed, and the magazine blown up. Another battery, however, still in possession of the rebels, was discovered about three miles up on the Wilmington River, (a creek), which runs parallel with the Savannah River, leading up from the rear of Little Tybee. The highest point to which Commander Rodgers penetrated, was

eight miles from Warsaw Bar, and ten miles from Savannah. This reconnaissance was probably preliminary to the investment of Fort Pulaski in the rear.

#### PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT.

To the President of the United States:—We, the undersigned inhabitants of —, being anxious that this terrible war shall speedily terminate, and that it shall result in establishing permanent peace, and universal freedom, do most earnestly petition your Excellency to command the generals and other officers of our army, to proclaim protection to all loyal persons who flock to our banner, and to arm all able-bodied loyal men, who will volunteer for this work, North or South, without regard to any distinction of national descent or difference of complexion, and utterly disregarding all claims to human beings as property—and proclaim "liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."

#### Family Miscellany.

For the Principia.

#### THANKSGIVING RHYMES.

[Spoken by Annie Russell, Thanksgiving day, Nov. 28, 1861, at the Annual Festival of the Williamsburgh Industrial School.]

I'm very little, as you see,  
But I am old enough to be  
Thankful, to-day, to God above,  
For all his kindness, and his love.

I thank Him for the sunshine bright,  
He sends each morn, to give us light;  
And for the flowers the summers bring,  
And little birds He sends to sing.

I thank Him for the stars on high,  
That look down on me from the sky,  
And for the eyes He's given me,  
That I might all these beauties see.

I thank Him for my sister good,—  
I love her dearly, as I should—  
And brothers two—the nicest boys  
That ever whistled, or made noise!

And, when the winter cold is here,  
I thank Him for the friends so dear  
Who give me frock and dresses warm,  
And keep me safe from every harm.

I thank Him for my teacher, too,  
Who tells me all that I should do;  
And, tenderly, from day to day,  
Leads me along the heavenly way.

I thank Him for a mind to know,  
A heart to feel His goodness so,  
That I, a little girl, may love  
The Father, great, of Heaven above.

L. G.

#### THE CROWDED STREET.

Let me move slowly through the street,  
Filled with an ever-shifting train,  
Amid the sound of steps that beat  
The murmuring walks like autumn rain.

How fast the flitting figures come!  
The mild, the fierce, the stony face—  
Some bright with thoughtless smiles, and some  
Where secret tears have left their trace.

They pass to toil, to strife, to rest—  
To halls in which the feast is spread—  
To chambers where the funeral guest  
In silence sits beside the dead.

And some to happy homes repair,  
Where children, pressing cheek to cheek,  
With mute caresses shall declare  
The tenderness they cannot speak.

And some, who walk in calmness here,  
Shall shudder as they reach the door  
Where one who made their dwelling dear,  
Its flower, its light, is seen no more.

Youth, with pale cheek and slender frame,  
And dreams of greatness in thine eye!  
Go'st thou to build an early name,  
Or early in the task, to die?

Keen son of trade, with eager brow!  
Who is now fluttering in thy snare?  
Thy golden fortunes, tower they now,  
Or melt the glittering spires in air?

Who of this crowd to-night hall tread  
The dance till daylight gleam again?  
Who sorrow o'er the untimely dead?  
Who writhe in throes of mortal pain?

Some, famine-struck, shall think how long  
The cold dark hours, how slow the light;  
And some, who flaunt amid the throng,  
Shall hide in dens of shame to-night.

Each where his tasks or pleasures call,  
They pass, and heed each other not.  
There is who heeds, who holds them all  
In his large love and boundless thought.

These struggling tides of life, that seem  
In wayward, aimless course to tend,  
Are eddies of the mighty stream  
That rolls to its appointed end.

—William Cullen Bryant.

#### The Tools Great Men Work With.

It is not tools that make the workmen, but the trained skill and perseverance of the man himself. Indeed it is proverbial that the bad workman never yet had a good tool. Some one asked Opie by what wonderful process he mixed his colors. "I mix them with my brains, sir," was his reply. It is the same with every workman who would excel. Ferguson made marvellous things—such as a wooden clock that accurately measured the hours—by means of a common penknife, a tool in everybody's hand, but then every body is not a Ferguson. A pan of water and two thermometers were the tools by which Dr. Black discovered latent heat; and a prism, a lens, and sheet of pasteboard, enabled Newton to unfold the composition of light and the origin of color. An eminent foreign *savant* once called upon Dr. Wollaston, and requested to be shown over his laboratories, in which science had been enriched by so many important discoveries, when the Doctor took him into a study, and, pointing to an old tea-tray on the table, containing a few watch glasses, test papers, a small balance, and a blowpipe, said: "There is all the laboratory I have?" Stothard learnt the art of combining colors by closely studying butterflies' wings; he would often say that no one knew what he owed to these tiny insects. A burnt stick and a barn-door served Wilkie in lieu of pencil and canvas. Bewick first practiced drawing on the cottage walls of his native village which he covered with sketches in chalk; and Benjamin West made his first brushes out of the cat's tail. Ferguson laid himself down in the fields at night in a blanket, and made a map of the heavenly bodies, by means of a thread with small beads on it, stretched between his eye and the stars. Franklin first robbed the thunder-cloud of its lightning by means of a kite made with two cross-sticks and a silk handkerchief. Watt made his first model of the condensing steam-engine out of an old anatomist's syringe, used to inject the arteries previous to dissection. Gifford worked his first problem in mathematics, when a cobbler's apprentice, upon small scraps of leather, which he bent smooth for the purpose, while Rittenhouse the astronomer first calculated eclipses on his plow-handle.—*Smilies' Self-Help*.

#### WRITING COMPOSITIONS.

A schoolmaster told one of his smaller boys that he wanted him to write a composition.

"O, I can't, sir. I don't know how," said the boy, in the greatest trouble.

"But you can *think*, can't you?" said the master.

"O yes, sir."

"And you can *write* words, can't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, just think about something, and write down what you think, and bring it to me."

"Is that all?"

"Yes; that will be a composition. Now I will excuse you a little while, and you may take your slate and go out, and the first thing you find that *interests* you, you think about it—what it is there for, what it is good for, what will become of it, &c., and write it down and bring it to me."

The little boy went out, and after looking about sometime, he at last came across a large turnip, behind a barn, growing among some weeds. He stood and looked at it a few moments, and, though he never dreamed he was to become a distinguished poet, his thoughts began to come to him in a simple rhyme, and he wrote them down thus:



Mr. Finney had a turnip  
And it grew behind the barn,  
And it grew, and it grew,  
But it ne'er did any harm.

And it grew, and it grew,  
Till it could grow no taller:  
Then Mr. Finney pulled it up,  
And put it in the cellar.

And it lay, and it lay,  
Till it there began to rot,  
And his daughter Susy washed it,  
And she put it in the pot.

And it boiled, and it boiled,  
As long as it was able,  
Then his daughter Lizzie took it up,  
And put it on the table.

Mr. Finney and his wife,  
They both sat down to sup;  
And they eat, and they eat,  
Till they eat the turnip up.

The little boy brought in his composition, and when the master came to read it, and saw the evidence of talent in the boy, it is said he could not refrain from tears.

Now, then, boys and girls, don't get frightened at the thought of a composition; but find something that interests you, and write down what you think about it, and that will be a composition. You need not try to write in rhyme unless you have a talent for it; for poor verses are a great deal poorer than poor prose.—*The Well-Spring.*

#### A SCORE OF IMPOLITE THINGS.

IN WHICH YOUNG PERSONS RENDER THEMSELVES DISAGREEABLE.

1. Loud and boisterous laughter.
2. Reading when others are talking.
3. Reading aloud in company without being asked.
4. Talking when others are reading.
5. Spitting about the house, smoking or chewing.
6. Cutting finger nails in company.
7. Leaving a church before public worship is closed.
8. Whispering or laughing in the house of God.
9. Gazing rudely at strangers.
10. Leaving a stranger without a seat.
11. A want of respect and reverence for seniors.
12. Correcting older persons than yourself, especially parents.
13. Receiving a present without an expression of gratitude.
14. Making yourself the hero of your own story.
15. Laughing at the mistakes of others.
16. Joking of others, in company.
17. Commencing talking before others have finished speaking.
18. Answering questions that have been put to others.
19. Commencing to eat as soon as you get to the table; and,
20. In not listening to what one is saying in company—unless your desire to show open contempt for the person speaking. A well bred person will not make an observation whilst another of the company is addressing himself to it.—*Educational Repository.*

#### NEVER DECEIVE CHILDREN.

The importance of truth, without deception, in the management of children, is illustrated by the anecdote narrated in the following paragraph from a New York paper: "Two small boys met on the sidewalk, and after some minutes spent in conversation, one remarked to the other that some little thing might be obtained if he could procure a few cents from his parents. 'But,' said the other, 'I don't need any money to obtain it, for my mother told me I should have it at such a time.' 'Poh!' said the first, 'my mother has promised me so many times, and I did not get it, and I do not think you will either. Our mother only tell us so to get rid of us, and I think it will be so with yours.' 'What, my mother tell a lie,' exclaimed the little fellow, and immediately left his companion with a countenance filled with indignation. What a lesson should this afford to all parents, guardians and those who have the care of youth.

#### LOVE AND FALLING IN LOVE.

Nothing is indeed so common in this world as falling in love; yet it is not quite so common to love. The one is

the flower that may bloom in a night; the other is rich fruit from the flower, that can survive the sun and storm and ripen to decay no more. When feverish anxieties have passed away; when "hopes and fears that kindle hope" have ceased; when selfish jealousies and lovers' quarrels are buried; when "honey moons" are long forgotten, and the snowy brow has become wrinkled, and the eye lost its moisture—then does love, worthy of the name, become the inmate of the heart and home;—love, pure, noble, devoted, self-sacrificing, seeking not its own, but the happiness of its beloved object—a love such as youth never dreamed of or realized.

**CURIOUS COURTSHIP OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.**—The following extract from the life of the wife of the Conqueror, is exceedingly curious, as characteristic of the members of a civilized age and nation:

"After some years' delay, William appears to have become desperate; and, if we may trust to the evidence of the *Chronicle of Ingerby*, in the year 1047, waylaid Matilda in the streets of Bruges, as she was returning from mass, seized her, rolled her in the dirt, spoiled her rich array, and, not content with these outrages, struck her repeatedly, and rode off at full speed. This Teutonic method of courtship, according to our author, brought the affair to a crisis; for Matilda, either convinced of the strength of William's passion by the violence of his behavior, or afraid of encountering a second beating, consented to become his wife. How he ever presumed to enter her presence again, after such a series of enormities, the chronicle sayeth not, and we are at a loss to imagine."

**A SWEET ANSWER.**—A teacher once heard the following conversation between two little girls in a female seminary. Sarah had just returned after vacation, and Sophy was looking on with eager interest as she was unpacking her trunk:

SOPHY. Why, Sallie W——, I should not think you would be willing to wear such plain cambric pantalets. Do step into my room, and let me show you mine. 'The work is *soo deep*, and French embroidery almost all of it.

SARAH. Oh, it is no matter for me to see them now. I suppose that your father is wealthy; isn't he?

SOPHY. Yes, indeed. He is one of the richest men in Boston. Our house is *splendid*. I wish you could see it.

Little Sarah then gave this sweet answer to the proud girl: "Well, I know my panties are plain, but my father is dead, and mother is not wealthy. She gets me such things as she can afford, and I am satisfied."—*Child's Paper.*

**ENERGY.**—"The longer I live the more certain I am that the great difference between men, the great and the insignificant, is energy—invincible determination—an honest purpose once fired, and then victory."—*Goethe.*

"The fact is, that, to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering, and thinking of the cold, and the danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can."—*Sidney Smith.*

A celebrated female writer thus pleads the cause of the little girls; "I plead that she be not punished as a romp, if she keenly enjoy those active sports which city gentility proscribes. I plead that the ambition to make her accomplished do not chain her to the piano, till the spinal column, which should consolidate the frame, starts aside like a broken reed—nor bow over her book, till the vital energy, which ought to pervade the whole frame, mounts into the brain, and kindles the brain fever."

**PROFIT OF PRAYER.**—After prayer, is not the heart lighter, and the soul happier? Prayer renders affliction less sorrowful, and joy more pure. It mingles with the one an unspeakable sweetness, and adds to the other a celestial perfume. Sometimes there passes over the fields a wind which parches the plants, and then their withered stems will droop towards the earth; by the dew, they regain their freshness, and lift up their languishing heads. So there are always burning winds, which pass over the soul, and wither it. Prayer is the dew which refreshes it again.

A little girl of three years, from beyond the Mississippi, who had never seen an apple-tree in full bloom, beheld one

in Ohio. She lifted her fat hands in the attitude of devotion, and exclaimed—

"See God's big boquet!"

A good man who has seen much of the world, and is not tired of it, says;—"The grand essentials to happiness in this world, are, something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."

**WHAT LITERATURE IS.**—Poetry is said to be the flower of literature; prose is the corn, potatoes, and meat; satire is the aqua-fortis; wit is the spice and pepper; love-letters are the honey and sugar; letters containing remittances, are the apple-dumplings.—*Ex.*

Political articles are the hash, and news-paper miscellany the "picked up dinners."—*Prin.*

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